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Remarks

Elections/Restrictions

Thank you for withdrawing the previously required election/restriction requirement.

Claim Objections

Applicant has amended claim 1 to correct the informality identified in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections – 112

Applicant has amended claims 1, 26, 34 and 35 to eliminate the 112 problems identified by the Office Action.

Claim Rejections – 103 and Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated that each of claims 2-6, 10, 13-21, 23-25 and 28-33 would be allowed if rewritten to include the limitations of base and intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of original claims 1 and 2 and therefore believes claim 1 and claims that depend therefrom should be patentable over the cited references.

In addition, Applicant has amended claim 10 to include the limitations of original claims 1 and 10. Here, Applicant notes that the Examiner did not indicate that original claim 7 was patentably distinct and therefore it is the claim 10 limitations, not the intervening claim 7 limitations, that render claim 10 patentable over the cited references. Claim 10 limitations do not require the limitations of claim 7. Thus, Applicant believes amended claim 10 and claims that depend therefrom are patentably distinct over the cited references.

Moreover, Applicant has amended claim 26 to include the limitations of original claims 26 and 28 and therefore believes claim 26 and claims that depend therefrom should be patentable over the cited references.

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Furthermore, Applicant has cancelled original claims 2 and 28 and has amended several of the other claims that originally depended from claims 1 or 26 so that they now depend from currently pending claims.

Finally, Applicant has cancelled each of claims 34-37 and has amended claim 38 to now depend from claim 10 (instead of from cancelled claim 37).

Applicant has introduced no new matter in making the above amendments and antecedent basis exists in the specification and claims as originally filed for each amendment. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes claims 1, 3-27, 29-33 and 38 of the present application recite patentable subject matter and allowance of the same is requested. No fee in addition to the fees already authorized in this and accompanying documentation is believed to be required to enter this amendment, however, if an additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account No. 17-0055 in the amount of the fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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